

I CLAIM:

1. A system for recording selected broadcasted audio and/or video content for later playback, comprising:

5 a receiver for receiving, in a receiving process, a data stream that has been broadcast from a program source, the stream including a plurality of content items; and
a recorder, connected to receive the data stream from said receiver, for recording, in a recording process, at least one of the content items for later playback,
wherein, for each content item recorded by said recorder, said recording process
10 uses a content of that content item to identify that content item as part of the process of its recordation and stores a respective item identifier indicative of the respective content for that content item.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said recorder is recorder software
15 installed in said system.

3. The system of claim 2, further comprising hardware for playing back content items, wherein said recorder software is interposed between said receiver and said hardware.

20 4. The system of claim 1, wherein any recorded content item is selectable for playback based upon its respective item identifier independently of any other recorded content item.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein said recording process is independent of said receiving process.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein said recording process uses template matching of the content of the content item to identify the content item.

7. A system for recording selected broadcasted audio and/or video content for later playback, comprising:

a receiver for receiving, in a receiving process, a data stream that has been webcast from a server, the stream including a plurality of content items; and

a recorder, connected to receive the data stream from said receiver, for recording, in a recording process independent of said receiving process, at least one of the content items for later playback,

wherein, for each content item recorded by said recorder, said recording process uses a content of that content item to identify that content item and stores a respective item identifier indicative of the respective content for that content item

8. The system of claim 7, wherein any recorded content item is selectable for playback based upon its respective item identifier independently of any other recorded content item.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein said recorder is recorder software installed in said system.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising hardware for playing back content items, wherein said recorder software is interposed between said receiver and said hardware.

5 11. The system of claim 7, wherein said recording process identifies each one of the recorded content items by template matching.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein said template matching includes digital fingerprint content matching.

10 13. The system of claim 11, wherein a plurality of templates are stored, each template being indicative of a desired content item,

wherein said receiver receives the data stream and stores the content items therein in buffer memory; and

15 wherein said recorder searches said buffer memory to match content items stored therein to said templates such that, if a stored content item matches one of said templates, that content item is identified and is recorded by said recorder.

20 14. The system of claim 13, wherein each template has a respective template identifier stored in association therewith, and wherein each content item matched to a respective template receives an item identifier corresponding to the respective template identifier.

15. The system of claim 11, wherein a plurality of sets of templates are stored, each set of templates including a start template indicative of a start of a desired content item and an end template indicative of an end of that desired content item;

5 wherein said receiver receives the data stream and stores the content items therein in buffer memory; and

wherein said recorder searches said buffer memory to match content items stored therein to said sets of templates such that, if a stored content item matches one of said sets of templates, that content item is identified and is recorded by said recorder.

10 16. The system of claim 7, wherein said recorder uses timing information indicative of a duration of a desired content item to identify that content item in the data stream.

15 17. The system of claim 7, wherein said recorder uses designation information designating selected ones of the content items in the data stream to record only those selected content items and to not record any other content items in the data stream.

20 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the designation information is input to said apparatus by a user input.

19. The system of claim 7, wherein said recording process uses template matching of the content of the content item to identify the content item.

20. A method for recording selected broadcasted audio and/or video content for later playback, where a receiver receives, in a receiving process, a data stream that has been broadcast from a program source, the stream including a plurality of content items; said method comprising the steps of:

- 5 receiving the data stream from the receiver;
- recording, in a recording process, at least one of the content items for later playback,
- for each content item recorded in said recording step, identifying that content item as part of its recordation by using a content of that content item; and
- 10 storing a respective item identifier indicative of that content item for that content item.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the recording process is independent of the receiving process.

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22. A method for recording selected broadcasted audio and/or video content for later playback, where a receiver receives, in a receiving process, a data stream that has been webcast from a server, the stream including a plurality of content items; said method comprising the steps of:

- 20 receiving the data stream from the receiver;
- recording, in a recording process independent of the receiving process, at least one of the content items for later playback,
- for each content item recorded in said recording step, identifying that content

item as part of its recordation by using a content of that content item; and

storing a respective item identifier indicative of that content item for that content item.